

REMARKS

The claims have now been reviewed and amended to conform to U.S. practice, but have not been narrowed. The specification has been amended and given headings. No new matter has been added and the abstract has been corrected to conform to U.S. practice.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: December 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard B. Hoffman

Richard B. Hoffman

Registration No.: 26,910

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Attorney for Applicant